

**Gulf of Mexico Alliance  
Ecosystem Integration and Assessment (EIA) Meeting  
February 2-4<sup>th</sup>, 2011, New Orleans, LA**

**Meeting Notes & Action Items**

**Overall Notes of Interest**

Representatives from all five Gulf States attended

Total attendance for meeting: February 2<sup>nd</sup> - 45 February 3<sup>rd</sup> - 27 February 4<sup>th</sup> - 15

**Announcements**

The next EIA Team Meeting will be in New Orleans, LA, as part of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place. The EIA plans to hold an all-day PIT Meeting Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a meeting from 1-5 pm on Wednesday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a morning meeting TBD on Thursday August 4<sup>th</sup>. More details to be released as they become available.

The 2011 Gulf Summit will be held December 4-8<sup>th</sup>, in Houston Texas at the Omni Houston Hotel.

**Tuesday, February 2nd**

**Welcome and Introductions**

Larry McKinney (HRI), state lead for the EIA PIT welcomed the attendees and reviewed the goals and agenda for the meeting.

**New Grants and Funding Opportunities and GOMA Structure**

**The Structure of GOMA**

Laura Bowie discussed GOMA's status as a 501C3 (non-profit). In August, the Alliance adopted a constitution, and they are now working on developing bylaws (required of non-profit organizations) to be signed by the AMT. GOMA now has a staff of three people; Laura Bowie, Phil Bass (on loan from the EPA), and a business manager. The GOMA offices are currently located at Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.

**NOAA GOMA Funding**

Laura discussed the proposals that GOMA submitted to NOAA as part of the NOAA Regional Partnership Funding. This is a nationwide, competitive program for application by regional ocean governance associations only (such as the Gulf of Mexico Alliance). In December 2010, the Alliance was one of nine Regional Ocean Partnerships that submitted proposals for Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning funding from NOAA. GOMA submitted four proposals totaling \$8.7 million. Since the federal budget is now under a Continuing Resolution, it is unclear when NOAA's Regional Ocean Partnership funding will be available to make award announcements.

## The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI)

Laura mentioned that in the fall, the Alliance began negotiations with BP to formalize an agreement to administer the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI). GOMRI is a voluntary \$500 million research program resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. GOMRI is designed to promote research among the following themes:

- 1 - distribution and fate of contaminants;
- 2 - chemical evaluation and biological degradation of the contaminants;
- 3 - environmental effects of the contaminants;
- 4 - technology development for improved detection, characterization, mitigation, and remediation; and
- 5 - integration of the previous four in the context of human health.

Laura stated that, BP will fund the 10-year program, and the Alliance will administer it. Decisions regarding funding of research proposals will be conducted by an independent panel called the GOMRI Research Board. The Research Board consists of 20 members—10 selected by the Gulf States and 10 selected by BP.

Mike Carron, Ph.D., formerly of NGI, will be working with the Alliance to lead the effort to direct the GOMRI administrative responsibilities. Mike is working closely with the representatives of the Research Board and BP to ensure that GOMRI gets off to a successful start. For more about the GOMRI, please visit <http://www.gomri.org/>.

## EPA GOMA Funding

Diane Altsman (EPA GMP) discussed the EPA Request for Proposals that was structured according to GOMA priorities and was slated to come out in late 2010 or early 2011. Diane reported that the RFP release has been delayed, and she is not certain at this point when it will be released.

## EIA Funding

Seneca Holland (HRI) developed an EIA funding document that details federal grants for each EIA Action Item. She is seeking EIA PIT input to fill in missing info and identify in kind support for each EIA Action Item. This document can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Notes/EIA%20Funding.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Notes/EIA%20Funding.pdf).

There was some discussion from the team about how interested parties apply for funding to support EIA Action Items. There were several members who thought that the EIA should develop some formal guidance to endorse parties interested in applying for federal funding (to accomplish EIA Action Items tasks). There was concern about whether this would be a review process or guidance for a letter of endorsement from the team. The team agreed that the EIA should develop guidance to assist those interested in applying for funding. Kim Caviness from the Nutrients PIT thought this was a good idea and would like other PITs to be involved. Larry McKinney agreed to put this on the agenda for an ACT meeting. Matt Howard from GCOOS

mentioned that for a recent federal funding opportunity, IOOS developed something like this. He suggested that the EIA check with them on their procedures.

There was also some PIT discussion about leaving EIA Action Items and the workplan flexible enough so that we can pursue federal funding opportunities even if they support tasks not in our plan(s).

**Action Item: Develop formal guidance on behalf of the EIA PIT for the endorsement of those interested in applying for funding to support EIA Action Items. Get this topic on the agenda of an ACT and send the guidance document to the AMT for approval.**

### **Gulf Restoration Task Force Update**

Larry McKinney discussed the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Task Force. President Obama appointed John Hankinson to lead the Task Force that will decide where NRDA funds will be used for restoration projects around the Gulf. The task force will begin to hold formal hearings around the gulf soon. Larry participated in the first TX hearing. This process will be good for the Alliance as Bryan Griffith and Buck Sutter will be task force representatives.

Becky Allee mentioned that she is the lead of the Fisheries Science Group. This is one of five sub science groups. The Task Force process will be finished by October 2011. There is a Task Force Meeting on February 28<sup>th</sup>, New Orleans, LA, 1-3pm at the Marriot on Canal Street. This is the next public meeting of the Task Force. (<http://www.restorethegulf.gov/news/events>)

For more information on the Task Force, please visit <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/10/05/executive-order-gulf-coast-ecosystem-restoration-task-force> or <http://www.restorethegulf.gov/task-force>

### **Introduction to the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative**

Larry McKinney discussed the Gulf of Mexico University Research Collaborative which is a collaboration of the five Gulf States to coordinate research efforts as they apply to oil spill research activities. Larry mentioned that Texas is a part of this Collaborative and has funds in place to hire a coordinator to help organize research efforts.

### **2011 Gulf Summit and Gulf of Mexico Report Cards**

Larry McKinney (HRI) discussed the 2011 Gulf Summit, which will be held December 4-8<sup>th</sup> in Houston, Texas at the Omni Houston Hotel. This meeting will focus on defining the future Gulf, developing a report card for the Gulf, and understanding the relationship between Gulf research, policy, and restoration. More information will be released as it becomes available. Please see Larry's presentation at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/Gulf%20Summit.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/Gulf%20Summit.pdf) for more information.

Larry mentioned that one of the goals of this Summit would be developing a Gulf of Mexico Report Card. He emphasized that this was not a money-making effort, but a process to develop metrics to measure a healthy Gulf. He wants input from experts around the world who have insight into this process. HRI will be hosting workshops in late spring for experts. More details

on this as they become available. Larry also has a meeting planned with NGOs and a meeting in Mexico to discuss the report cards and the Gulf Summit.

There were several questions and comments on this presentation.

Syed Khalil (LA CPRA) would like to become involved with this process. Jorge Brenner (TNC) said that he would coordinate this involvement with Syed.

Steve Jordan (EPA) commented that to define a healthy Gulf, the report should be as quantitative as possible. He was interested in what kind of quantitative goals we can set for the Gulf. Larry responded that he would be sending out papers to people in the PIT to get this type of feedback. Steve also mentioned that the PITs would be a great place to start developing a list of indicators for the report card.

- *Action Item: The 2011 Gulf Summit will be held December 4-8<sup>th</sup> in Houston, Texas at the Omni Houston Hotel.*
- *Action Item: Larry McKinney is seeking participation, comments, and suggestions in the development of report cards for the Gulf of Mexico. He will hold workshops for experts at HRI in late spring.*

### **GOMA Data Management Advisory Council (DMAC) Update**

Melanie Morris (DMAC co-chair) gave an overall DMAC update. Melanie mentioned that during monthly DMAC conference calls, various PITs have been demonstrating tools and applications. She discussed possible funding routes for the DMAC including possible funding through the GOMRI. Russ Beard and Jim Gibeaut both agreed that the DMAC could potentially draw support from the GOMRI. Melanie also discussed the possibility of leveraging other groups like the Exchange Network. She mentioned that the Exchange Network will have a meeting in Denver in April which she is planning on attending. Additionally, the DMAC is currently looking into launching a page on the GOMA working website as well as an internal DMAC wiki page. Melanie's presentation can be found at

[ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/GOMA%20DMAC%20EIA%20MTG.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/GOMA%20DMAC%20EIA%20MTG.pdf).

### **Gulf of Mexico Training Efforts**

Amy Gohres with the Gulf of Mexico Coastal Training Program discussed coastal training opportunities. She has been working within the National Estuarine Research Reserve System and GOMA to provide various training opportunities around the Gulf. Amy will be collaborating with the EIA PIT to assist in developing workshops/training for tools like GDAP and the GOMA Viewer. For more info on training opportunities, please visit [GulfAllianceTraining.org](http://GulfAllianceTraining.org). Amy's presentation can be found at

[ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/Amy%20Gohres%20-%20EIA%20Meeting%202011.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/Amy%20Gohres%20-%20EIA%20Meeting%202011.pdf).

## **NASA Project - Characterizing Pelagic Habitats**

Becky Allee (NOAA) gave a presentation on a NASA-funded project to apply some aspects of the water column component from the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) to US coastal waters in the Gulf of Mexico. A public comment period on CMECS closed in December 2010; this is part of the federal process to evaluate and endorse national standards. The project is one of several pilot opportunities to test and validate CMECS as it is finalized for endorsement. The presentation provided an overview of the project goals and preliminary products. The primary objective for giving this presentation at the EIA team meeting was to solicit feedback from state resource managers as the final products from the project are intended to aid managers with decision making. She briefly discussed an aspect of the project, self-organizing map technology, which was not in the presentation. Dr. David Lary, UT Dallas, is the lead for that part of the project. Her presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/ROSES\\_Pilot\\_Alee.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/ROSES_Pilot_Alee.pdf).

There were several comments after this presentation.

Kevin Anson was very interested in the project and thought this was a great idea. He suggested Carol Burns and wondered who is involved with the larval info, which is one of the components that is needed. Becky said that she needs to follow up with fisheries people about this and look at fisheries distribution. She wants to follow up with Kevin Anson and Jeff Rester.

Jim Gibeaut wanted to know what kind of temporal aggregation is in the map layer. Becky responded that it is a seasonal product, not a 5-year compilation; there will also be seasonal products for each year from 2005-2009.

Jim also wanted to know if suspended solids were taken into account. Becky responded that it was not included because it was not an original classifier identified for the water column component at the time the project was designed, but turbidity is being considered.

Matt Howard mentioned that GCOOS could supply lots of real-time data that could be very useful rather than historical data. He mentioned that Becky might want to get in touch with Mitch Roffer who is using MODIS.

Heather Young wanted to know if this project will go into estuaries. Becky commented that you can go into estuaries but that the resolution is too coarse to do this well. Heather Young also commented that State fisheries managers need this product.

Dave Palandro – Further commented that you can get a 250-meter resolution from MODIS for estuaries, but that the bottom confounds the signal because of the shallow or turbid water.

## **CMECS Database**

Kathy Goodin from NatureServe provided a brief update on the CMECS database, which is part of an EPA grant. This database is now online at [www.cmeccatalogue.org](http://www.cmeccatalogue.org). The database is a catalogue of CMECS units and a description of the units. You can limit your search to the Gulf of Mexico.

Jorge Brenner from The Nature Conservancy was interested if the online database had photos. Kathy responded that it did not; however, the hardcopy does have pictures.

## **Working Groups Updates**

### 1. Gulf of Mexico Master Mapping Plan Update

Jennifer Wozencraft gave an update on the Master Mapping Plan (GMMMP). Work continues on developing a mapping plan for the Gulf to help identify opportunities for collaboration and leveraging limited funding. The scope of data types in the mapping plan is imagery, elevation data, and derived information products. Current tasks include developing a website to communicate plan elements, identifying upcoming mapping activities in the Gulf, and compiling standards and specification for the base data layers.

The GMMMP draft outline, Gulf mapping requirements compiled last year, the Gulf data acquisition planning tool developed at Harte, and the GOMA viewer will all be communicated through the website. To identify mapping activities coming up in the next 10 years among federal, state, and local agencies, NGOs, and academia, the team will utilize interagency activities and online tools at the federal level and by marketing the Harte planning tool at the state and local level.

The other update was provided by William Nichols on GDAPT which is an interactive website where those who have a data collection activity planned can go in and enter their data collection activity. This tool will be completed soon and HRI is working on developing a marketing campaign to get buy-in on it. Heather Young from NOAA was interested if GDAPT could be used for things other than Lidar and Aerial Photography. William replied that yes, it can be used for other types of data collection.

### 2. Data Access and Acquisition

Russ Beard (NOAA NCDDC) gave an update on data access and acquisition efforts. He introduced Kate Rose who is a new NCDDC employee who will be working on CMECS data. He also discussed the meeting at Grand Bay NERR about the Digital Atlas. Both Jim Gibeaut and Becky Allee attended this meeting and several other EIA PIT members attended by phone. This atlas will support a large number of formats such as KML. NOAA NCDDC will be working on this project for the next year.

Russ mentioned several projects including the NCDDC Habitat SME which will be onboard in 2011. He mentioned that Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Classification System (CMECS V3.) classification standards will be used to characterize the Grand Bay NERR and Mississippi Sound mapping projects, and that a mixture of real-time and historical data that is collated and exposed via web services (MOSS), NMFS Independent Data and World Ocean Database (WOD 09) was added in fall 2010. Russ's presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/NCDDC\\_EIA%20Update%203%20feb2011.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/NCDDC_EIA%20Update%203%20feb2011.pdf).

### 3. Living Marine Resources

Dave Reed gave an LMR update. He introduced Cristina Mazza who has been working on inputting LMR information, primarily from Dr. Jim Simon's (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department) Food Habits of Fishes Bibliography into GAME. This effort is mostly complete, and they will begin importing other datasets soon. Dave also mentioned that the EIA has lost our fisheries Council/Commission liaison, Buck Sutter. The PIT will have to begin thinking about a replacement. The rest of the AI3 milestones are on task to be completed as scheduled with the exception of the Council/Commission liaison.

Becky Allee provided an update on the fisheries goal of the Gulf of Mexico Restoration Task Force. She mentioned that only state and federal employees can be members of the task force. Heather Young was interested in how one submits a name for involvement. Alyssa Dausman from the USGS responded that you can get in touch with the task force team leader or contact her.

### 4. Wetlands Status and Trends Report

Kate Spear provided an update on the Emergent Wetlands Status and Trends Report. Larry Handley and Kate have been working on the Introduction and Methodology sections and draft state chapters and vignettes. They are planning to have the Literature Review, Introduction, and Table of Contents posted on the project website by the next All Hands Meeting. They have had a hard time finding a few particular historical datasets (these datasets have been found as of 2/16/11) and would like to include potential new datasets of areas that may soon be remapped because of the oil spill. They will be working with various state writers to help fill in information about monitoring and restoration projects, plans, opportunities, and needs for each state. The report will be posted in increments as it is completed at <http://gom.usgs.gov>.

### 5. Ecosystem Services

David Yoskowitz (HRI) provided this update. Dave discussed GEcoServ which is the Harte Research Institute's Gulf of Mexico Ecosystem Services Valuation database that contains ES valuation studies that are relevant to the gulf region. The online database allows users to query and identify gaps in published ES literature. GEcoServ can be found at [Gecoserv.org](http://Gecoserv.org). There were several comments and questions. John Harding (NGI) commented that GEcoServ will serve as a good gap analysis tool for ecosystem services. Amy Gohres wondered how often the data will be updated. Dave answered that it would stay current. Dave's presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/ES\\_update\\_EIA\\_NOLA\\_Feb22011.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/ES_update_EIA_NOLA_Feb22011.pdf).

### **Break out Groups and Cross Team Collaboration**

At this point, each working group broke out to assign tasks and edit their detailed work plan.

Thursday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

## **Louisiana's Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM) – Implementation, Product, and Continuation**

Darin M. Lee (LA CPRA) presented on Barrier Island Comprehensive Monitoring (BICM): Implementation, Product, and Continuation. This presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/GOMA\\_BICM\\_dml\\_020311.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/GOMA_BICM_dml_020311.pdf).

## **IEA Update**

Cristina Carollo (HRI) gave a presentation she prepared with Becky Alee (NOAA-CSC) to update the PIT on ongoing NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) efforts within the Gulf. She briefly discussed what IEA is, the need for it, and the 5-step process to implement IEA as described in Levin et al., 2009. The talk focused on the Northern Gulf Institute's "Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Initiative for Selected Systems in the Northern Gulf of Mexico" project. The representative systems are Perdido Bay, Florida; Mississippi Sound, Mississippi; and Barataria Basin, Louisiana. Drivers and pressures were identified for each site separately and then combined into a common list that permitted cross-comparison. This step involved several stakeholder groups.

She also mentioned NOAA's support to the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem project funded by UNIDO and led by Mexican partners.

John Harding, NGI, briefly discussed the workshop held in Ocean Springs, MS, January 26 and 27. Several experts were invited (Cristina and Becky among them) to discuss the development of a model structure that would allow evaluation of different management strategies (step 5 of the IEA 5-step process).

This presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/EIA-IEA.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/EIA-IEA.pdf).

## **Geoportal/Ecowatch Update**

Russ Beard and Rost Parsons from NCDDC gave an update on the Ecowatch catalog and geoportal. Rost mentioned that the Ecowatch Catalog is evolving from V1 to V2. He mentioned that the current catalog is a Discovery Portal based on semantic-level metadata employing topic mapping (<http://ecowatch.ncddc.noaa.gov/catalog/gom>) and that NCDDC is working to expose the entire GOMA metadata collection via Web Accessible Folder (WAF) and a OGC Catalog Search for the Web (CS-W) service. He discussed the EcoWatch Data Search which provides the ability to search data by time and space within the Collection Service Prototype was demonstrated within NOAA in October 2010; further development is "on hold" under FY11 budget.

Rost also discussed NOAA's efforts to implement ESRI Geoportal Server. The Geoportal is a web-based metadata catalog which allows administrators to publish, validate, and manage

geospatial resource metadata, and gives users a simple web-page interface through which they can search geospatial datasets. NOAA is working collectively with FGDC and others to overcome several of the challenges with ESRI metadata definitions and data search/access limitations (NOS Data Explorer contract with ESRI, etc.) They are using Geoportal capabilities in indexing and cataloging XML metadata collections housed in Web Accessible Folders (WAF). They are exposing the collection via OGC Catalog Service for the Web (CS-W). Rost's presentations can be found at

[ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/ESRI\\_Geoportal\\_Summary\\_KJ.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/ESRI_Geoportal_Summary_KJ.pdf) and [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/ecowatch\\_update.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/ecowatch_update.pdf).

## **Updates by State**

Each state provided an update of their work:

### 1. Alabama – Kevin Anson and Sarah Johnston

Kevin Anson from Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources: Marine Resources Division gave an update of their efforts. Sarah Johnston has been working on identifying datasets to enter into MERMAid. Their effort was initially impacted by the oil spill and their involvement in the NRDA process.

### 2. Mississippi – Ali Leggett

Ali Leggett from Mississippi Department of Marine Resources gave a presentation on Mississippi data collection efforts. Alan Criss at USM has been continuing work on collecting data/metadata and entering them into MERMAid. This presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/FinalReport-GCGS.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/FinalReport-GCGS.pdf).

### 3. Louisiana – Jeff Marx, Marty O'Connell, and Meg O'Connell

Meg O'Connell from the University of New Orleans Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Sciences provided an update on Louisiana efforts. This presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/LA%20presentation.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/LA%20presentation.pdf).

### 4. Florida – Dave Palandro and Dave Reed

Dave Palandro from FWRI stated that Florida is on track to meet all the September deliverable deadlines. Dave mentioned that the qualitative Gulf-wide data gap analysis is complete. In GAME, there are currently 2970 total data records. Of these, all of the datasets have an associated footprint (.shp). Since the last EIA meeting, there are 679 new entries (most of these are LMR records). He mentioned that GAME is in a state of ongoing maintenance. They are currently looking for new LMR datasets but they can easily include others. Also, additional GAME staff has been hired for the EPA Living Marine Resource grant. Cristina Mazza is currently working on getting Jim Simon's Fish Habits database into the GAME Catalog and creating footprints of his data.

### 4. Texas – Seneca Holland and William Nichols

Seneca Holland and William Nichols gave the Texas update. They have completed moving datasets and metadata into geodatabases. They are continuing to look for seagrass, oyster, and bathymetry datasets. This presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/TX%20Data%20Collection.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/TX%20Data%20Collection.pdf).

## **Gap Analysis Update**

Cristina Carollo (HRI) gave an update on the quantitative gap analysis, which will allow one to assign a value to available Florida West Coast datasets based on experts' opinion. She presented the methodology that she has developed in collaboration with Erin Leone. She showed (1) equations that are currently been used, (2) tables for the weights that have already been calculated, and (3) coefficients assigned based on qualifiers' (age and temporal resolution) ideal range, selected by the experts who returned the survey. A couple of examples were shown, but information is still missing to evaluate coefficients for the spatial resolution qualifier. Next steps are to obtain data from Florida to be able to determine the spatial resolution and then calculate the relative value of each available data set. This presentation can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/EIA\\_GapAnalysis.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/EIA_GapAnalysis.pdf).

## **Alliance Action 2, Sub Action Step 4**

### GDAPT

William Nichols from HRI gave a presentation on GDAPT - Gulf of Mexico Data Acquisition Planning Tool. This Web based application was built using Microsoft Silverlight and ESRI's ArcGIS Server. This tool allows users to create, search, query, and visualize features that represent planned data acquisition activities. Additionally, the tool can add an attachment (word doc, pdf, text file, etc.) to the shapefiles, to provide supplemental information about the planned mapping. The attachments will be available on the web. The tool can also do a spatial intersect and look for any planned mapping efforts in a specific area of interest. William will be integrating his tool with code from the USACE viewer over the next several months. He will be presenting GDAPT at the GeoTools conference in March.

### GOMA Viewer

Marie Crum, a contractor at the USACE, presented the new GOMA spatial viewer. Marie has almost completed the viewer and will have it available online soon. Marie mentioned that because several developers have been working on this tool, a few of the features such as the measure tool and the lat/long tool were lost. She will go back and add these.

Marie mentioned that the application can be tailored to each PIT to have the look and feel that the individual PIT would like to see. Dave Palandro wondered if the DMAC could assist the PITs with getting data layers up so that each PIT had a tailored look. Jim Gibeaut added that the GOMRI would be able to help fund this effort if it goes forward. Several other DMAC members thought this was a good idea.

Marie discussed the issues that the PITs could face if they were to develop on top of the tool. She mentioned that they would need Silverlight for this as well as several other pieces of software. Jim Gibeaut asked if the USACE would be hosting it. Marie said that they could; however, because they are a government agency, they will have firewall issues and problems serving up some data. William had concerns about web traffic if HRI was to host the viewer. Marie will share the code with William Nichols at HRI. The viewer is not currently online but will be soon.

### **Tools Marketing Discussion**

Seneca Holland and William Nichols lead a discussion about marketing GDAPT and the GOMA Viewer. HRI is interested in marketing both GDAPT and the GOMA Viewer to state agencies, federal agencies, and GOMA to ensure that these tools have impact. There were several comments from the team about how and to whom to market these tools. Seneca and William will work with Amy Gohres to develop a marketing plan.

### **The Nature Conservancy's Analyses and Tools to Support Marine Spatial Planning**

Jorge Brenner and Laura Geselbracht with the Nature Conservancy gave presentations pertaining to TNCs Tools to Support Marine Spatial Planning. These presentations can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/Brenner\\_presentation\\_on\\_MSP\\_and\\_TNC\\_013111\\_2.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/Brenner_presentation_on_MSP_and_TNC_013111_2.pdf) and [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Presentation/Geselbracht%20for%20GOMA%20EAI%202-3-11.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Presentation/Geselbracht%20for%20GOMA%20EAI%202-3-11.pdf).

### **EPA's Developing Sustainability Research Programs**

Steve Jordan from the EPA provided an update on the Office of Research and Development's consolidation of its national research programs, with a focus on sustainability. The new programs, replacing 13 topical research areas, are Sustainable and Healthy Communities, Safe and Sustainable Water, Air, Climate and Energy, and Safe and Sustainable Products. The current Ecosystem Services Research Program will become part of Sustainable and Healthy Communities (SCRIP), with continuing research on topics important to GOMA, including ecosystem services of wetlands, nitrogen, coral reefs, and the Tampa Bay region. Within SCRIP, a project is being developed in cooperation with HUD and Ohio State University to explore sustainability solutions for selected Gulf Coast communities.

### **GOMA Accomplishments Report Discussion**

Seneca Holland discussed the EIA section of the GOMA Accomplishments Report. This draft accomplishments report was edited by the EIA team and submitted to Laura Bowie by Seneca Holland on 2/10/11. Accomplishments were developed for each EIA Action Item. These accomplishments can be found at [ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf\\_of\\_Mexico\\_Alliance/Notes/Ecosystems%20Integration%20Accomplishments.pdf](ftp://hriftp.tamucc.edu/Gulf_of_Mexico_Alliance/Notes/Ecosystems%20Integration%20Accomplishments.pdf).

- **Action Item: Seneca sent the accomplishments draft report out to the EIA PIT Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011 and to Laura Bowie Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## EIA Website

Seneca Holland provided an update on the EIA page of both the GOMA and GOMA Working Website. Last year the Northern Gulf Institute began hosting the GOMA websites. Recently, Seneca Holland updated content on the GOMA working website. The GOMA website can be found at <http://gulfofmexicoalliance.org/>. The Working Website can be found at <http://www.gulfofmexicoalliance.org/working/>.

- **Action Item: The EIA PIT should review the content on the EIA pages on both websites and send edits and content suggestions to Seneca Holland.**

## EIA Future Steps/Wrap up

The team discussed times to meet at the GOMA All Hands Meeting in August and the general EIA PIT meeting adjourned at 5pm on Thursday afternoon.

- **Action Item: The next EIA Team Meeting will be in New Orleans, LA as part of the Gulf of Mexico Alliance All Hands Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at the Westin New Orleans Canal Place. The EIA plans to hold an all-day PIT Meeting Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a meeting from 1-5pm on Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and a morning meeting at a time TBD on Thursday, August 4<sup>th</sup>. More details to be released as they become available.**

## Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>

On Friday morning, individuals involved with the HRI-NOAA Cooperative Agreement Project met to give updates and discuss the final year of the project.